



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: SR-6J

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. Dean G. Mohring  
Rockton Township Trustee  
PO Box 512  
Rockton, IL 61072

RE: "Citizen's petition" for a Preliminary Assessment on land West of Rockton, IL

Dear Mr. Mohring:

Thank you for your letter requesting that U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) conduct a PA for the Cannell/Puri Development located on the west side of Prairie Avenue, ¼ mile north of Rockton Road, west of Rockton, Illinois pursuant to CERCLA Section 105(d). In a PA, U.S. EPA determines whether a hazardous waste released from a site may pose a risk to human health or the environment. PAs are conducted by EPA or its representatives and usually result when a person or organization calls the Agency's attention to a hazardous-substance release. (The term "release" includes any means by which a substance could harm the environment -- by spilling, leaking, discharging, dumping, injecting or escaping.) The purpose of a PA is to see if a threat does exist and what further action, if any, should be taken.

Your letter indicates that you believe the Cannell/Puri Development property received sewage sludge from Beloit, Wisconsin during the 1960s through the 1980s and that the sludge contained a lot of heavy metals. Your letter also indicates that two adjacent residents have symptoms of heavy metal contamination. U.S. EPA evaluated your PA petition to determine (1) if there is reason to believe that an actual/potential site exists, (2) if there is reason to believe that a petitioner is, or may be, affected by the actual/potential release, (3) whether EPA has the legal authority under Superfund to respond to the site, and (4) if a PA is determined warranted, upon completion of this evaluation, U.S. EPA will determine if a Site Inspection (SI) is also warranted.

U.S. EPA has contacted Illinois EPA to perform a PA under a cooperative agreement. A PA report should be issued within the next several months.

Please be aware that CERCLA specifically excludes petroleum from its statutory provisions including the Superfund reporting requirements. In particular, the law does not address releases of petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof that is not otherwise specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance under the Superfund law, as well as natural gas, natural gas liquids, liquified natural gas, or synthetic gas usable for fuel mixtures of natural gas and such synthetic gas in this area. Therefore, U.S. EPA under our CERCLA authority cannot respond to any releases of oil, gasoline and diesel spills.

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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Thank you for your time and effort to alert U.S. EPA of this potential site. If you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me on (312)886-1842 or Laura Ripley of my staff on (312)886-6040.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Mankowski', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Mankowski  
Section Chief, Remedial Response Section #2

Cc: Thomas Crause, IEPA